

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS CLEAN WATER TRUST**

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, June 13, 2019
Time: 12:30 PM
Location: Massachusetts Clean Water Trust
1 Center Plaza, Suite 430
Boston, Massachusetts 02108
Notice: Due public notice given
Attendees Sue Perez, Executive Director, Trust
Maria Pinaud, Director of Program Development, Trust
Maya Jonas-Silver, Director of Finance & Administration, Trust
Also Present Nate Keenan, Deputy Director, Trust
Jonathan Maple, Policy Analyst, Trust
Absent

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

1. **Minutes Approval.** The Committee approved minutes from the May 24, 2019, May 30, 2019 meetings of the Executive Committee
2. **Cherry Valley Water District Follow Up.** Mr. Keenan informed the Committee that the district has passed a budget heading off any shortfall or funding issues in the short-term. Additionally, the District's Board confirmed their interest in refinancing their current USDA loans. Mr. Keenan noted that the Trust would perform credit analysis of the District and present the information for the Committee's review.
3. **DEP Regulation Changes.** Ms. Pinaud confirmed that the MassDEP held a public hearing on June 12, in Boston. The meeting was sparsely attended with no comments or testimony presented. The regulation change will remain open for public comment until June 24th.
4. **Martha's Vineyard 208 Plan Update.** Ms. Pinaud informed the Committee that there were currently no updates on this project at this time.

**Other
Business**

(Items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting)

5. **Tri-Town Water Board.** Ms. Perez asked if there was an update on the status of Tri-Town's 2019 Drinking Water project (New Tri-Town Regional Water Treatment Plant). The project totals about 11% of the available 2019 IUP funding. If the project fails to move forward the funding could be utilized for other projects on the project priority list. Additionally, Tri-Town has indicated that there is a significant chance that the project cost will increase beyond the IUP cost. Ms. Pinaud noted that she has not touched base with the MassDEP project manager who attended the most recent meeting of the Tri-Town Board, but she indicated that we should know by the end of the month.

Ms. Jonas-Silver requested more information on why DWSRF does not have the financial capacity to provide funding to projects that are below the capacity cut off on the Intended Use Plan. Ms. Perez explained that the 2019 program capacity for the DWSRF is \$138 million compared to the CWSRF's \$430 million. The annual grant for the DWSRF is smaller than CWSRF's annual grant, and there are limits on the amount that can be transferred between programs. The Committee discussed actions that could be used to increase the DWSRF's annual capacity and would follow up at next meeting after staff level discussions.

6. **The Commonwealth FY2020 Budget.** Ms. Perez asked if there was any news or updated on the 2020 budget. Ms. Jonas-Silver reported that the legislature is indicating the budget should be delivered by the end of the fiscal year to the Governor's office.
7. **PFAS and Emerging Contaminants Discussion.** Ms. Jonas-Silver asked what would happen if a Community tested their water and found a "dangerous" level of PFAS - would they come to the Trust for an emergency loan? Ms. Pinaud noted that there is currently no official drinking water standard beyond EPA's 70 parts per trillion (ppt) health advisory level and MassDEP's 20 ppt proposed level, but that a community is required to take action at levels of 70 ppt or higher. It was noted that a community would be eligible for a DWSRF loan for appropriate mitigation activities. Ms. Pinaud stated that communities should reach out to the MassDEP's regional office for guidance.

The Committee discussed that Commissioner Suuberg listed supporting PFAS as a program priority, and the Trust should explore financial support mechanisms to reduce the impact of these projects on communities. Ms. Perez noted that the Trust can provide information to the Committee about the long-term cost of additional interest rate reductions on the Commonwealth's Contract Assistance commitment. Mr. Keenan will reach out to EPA about using certain designated program funds for supporting these activities.

8. **2019 DWSRF IUP Amendment.** Mr. Keenan asked MassDEP about the progress on updating the 2019 DWSRF IUP to include updated Disadvantaged Community language. Ms. Pinaud requested updated language from the Trust and confirmed that MassDEP intended to update the IUP once all projects have finalized their loan applications or dropped from the process – most likely in July.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS USED:

The meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

Minutes Approved: 07/25/2019